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Boston University

News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



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BLACK NAMED TO AIDS TASK FORCE, ADDRESSES AIDS IN NEJM LETTER Paul H. Black, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology and director of the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center, recently was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

According to Black, Governor Michael S. Dukakis created the Task Force to advise him on the status of research, care and treatment of AIDS patients in the state. "He had questions concerning the state and quality of treatment," said Black. Black is conducting research on AIDS at the School of Medicine with Elinor M. Levy, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology, and Robert Bellas, a research assistant and graduate student at the School.

The Task Force, chaired by Bailus Walker Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health, is made up of 16 members representing the medical, scientific human services and homosexual communities. Black recently wrote and submitted a proposal requesting an additional \$1.5 million for AIDS research. The proposal has been passed by the Task Force and presently is being considered for approval by the state legislature.

In addition, Black and Levy recently wrote a letter to the editor that appeared in the Oct. 6 New England Journal of Medicine in which they outlined the arguments against the role of human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV) as a cause of AIDS. Recently published papers theorize that the two diseases may have similarities. "I question the involvement of HTLV as a cause of AIDS and I think there are compelling reasons to believe it may not be," said Black. Their letter received much media attention, including stories distributed by Associated Press and United Press International.

MAJOR STUDY FINDS BYPASS SURGERY NOT ALWAYS BENEFICIAL

Patients suffering from mild symptoms of coronary artery disease will not necessarily benefit from coronary artery bypass surgery, according to a \$24 million 10-year National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute study conducted at University Hospital and 14 other hospitals in the nation and Canada.

Thomas J. Ryan, M.D., a BUSM professor of medicine and chief of cardiology at UH, was principal investigator for the randomized Coronary Artery Surgery Study (CASS) at BUMC. The study, which has received much media attention

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including an interview with Ryan on the "MacNeil Lehrer Report," was designed to compare the effectiveness of coronary artery bypass surgery to conventional medical therapy in patients with proven coronary artery disease. The results showed there was no difference in the mortality rates for those who underwent a bypass operation and those who were treated with medications.

The study was based on 780 patients whose symptoms did not require surgery, but whose coronary anatomy could be surgically repaired. University Hospital was a major participant among the 11 sites from which randomized patients were drawn. These patients were randomly assigned to either elective bypass surgery or medical therapy. Ryan said the CASS results showed that people with conditions similar to the randomized patients would not have to be rushed off to surgery in the expectation that they will live longer.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND BEGUN
WITH STRIDE RITE CORP. GIFT

With a gift of \$50,000 from the Stride Rite Corporation of Cambridge, the Stride Rite Student Revolving Loan Fund has been established at the School of Medicine. A total of \$375,000 has been allocated to BUSM, Harvard and Northeastern Universities by the Cambridge-based footwear manufacturer through the Stride Rite Charitable Foundation. The money was given to fund financial aid programs at the schools on a trial basis during this academic year.

Eleven BUSM students have been selected to receive the low-interest loans, which will accrue 2 percent interest while they are in school and 9 percent during the postgraduate repayment period. As those funds are repaid after the graduation of the students, the money will be made available to other BUSM students.

The increasing cost of financial aid compounds the already very high cost of attending private medical schools, said Arnold Hiatt, president of the Stride Rite Corporation. "The burden of student loans is likely to compel many of the best and most able of our new doctors to seek careers in the highest paid specialties rather than pursuing other areas of practice where the need for their skills may actually be greatest," he said.

The programs' effectiveness will be evaluated by the Stride Rite Corporation after a year. If they are judged by the Corporation to have made a significant and meaningful contribution to the students, the universities and the community, it will be considered for renewal.

EGDAHL KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., spoke on "PPOs and Health Care" at a conference of the National Association of Employers on Health Care Alternatives.

Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) are groups of hospitals and physicians that contract on a fee-for-service basis with employees, insurance carriers or third-party administrators to provide quality, cost-effective medical services to subscribers. Egdahl, who also is a professor of surgery, discussed what is known about evaluating PPOs and analyzed ways PPOs can be monitored to control health costs. The conference was held Oct. 13 to 14 in Chicago.

DEAN ADDRESSES MEDICAL SCHOOL
COSTS AT AFFILIATES DINNER

At the School of Medicine's annual affiliates dinner held in October, Dean Sandson addressed 33 representatives of the School's affiliated institutions on the escalating cost of medical education.

"Increasing educational expenses are causing a crisis in most independent medical schools. If financial assistance for students is not improved, the composition of the student body may change until most of the students come from affluent families," the Dean told those at the dinner. The Dean explained BUSM's unique revolving loan fund, which disburses loans to students at below-market rates and allows a repayment schedule that takes into account the borrowers' lengthy medical training.

Also at the dinner, Daniel S. Bernstein, M.D., associate dean for resources and hospital affiliations and director of the School's Office of Industrial Liaison, gave an overview on the School's Technology Transfer Program, which he directs. John McCahan, M.D., associate dean for curriculum, also attended the dinner, held at the St. Botolph Club, Boston. Twenty-two New England hospitals and health-care agencies participate in the School of Medicine's educational training.

FRIENDSHIP IN LIFE AWARD
GIVEN POSTHUMOUSLY TO TAYLOR

The 1983 Hattie B. Cooper Community Center Friendship in Life Award has been presented posthumously to Donald F. Taylor, M.S.S.W. Taylor, a BUSM associate professor of psychiatry (social work) and program director of the University's Area Health Education Center, died in August.

At the Center's annual meeting this month, Joseph T. Devlin, M.S.W., an assistant professor of psychiatry (social work) at BUSM and a member of the Center's Board of Directors, paid tribute to Taylor. The award was presented to Taylor's wife, Gertrude, and his mother, Patricia Taylor. The Cooper Community Center was founded in 1916 as a multipurpose neighborhood service agency. The group also presented a gift to a Boston University scholarship fund in Taylor's name.

HAZZARD SERVES AS
FAULKNER VISITING PROFESSOR

William R. Hazzard, M.D., associate director of the Department of Medicine and head of the Section of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Medicine, visited BUSM Oct. 18 and 19 as the second Dr. James M. Faulkner Visiting Professor of Geriatric Medicine.

During University Hospital and Boston City Hospital Combined Medical Grand Rounds, Hazzard spoke on "Mechanisms of Sex Differential in Longevity" at the Annual Faulkner Lecture in Keefer Auditorium.

Following the lecture, a luncheon reception was held in the Dean's Conference Room. Dean John Sandson; Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., the Wade Professor and chairman of the Division of Medicine and professor of physiology; and R. Knight Steel, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Geriatric Section at UH, also attended the luncheon.

On Oct. 19, Hazzard met with Dean Sandson, John F. McCahan, M.D., associate dean for curriculum, and the faculty of the Geriatrics Section and the Section of General Internal Medicine for a discussion of "Geriatric Medical Education."

At Jewish Memorial Hospital, Hazzard spoke on "Prolonging Longevity--What if We Succeed?"

BUSM STUDENT ATTENDS
ANNUAL CLINICAL CONFERENCE

Fourth-year BUSM student Douglas Conigliaro was one of 30 medical students from across the nation invited to the Annual Clinical Conference of the American College of Surgeons, held in Atlanta in October. Each year the ACS invites a group of outstanding medical students interested in the field of surgery to attend the conference. Conigliaro was nominated by Peter J. Deckers, M.D., an associate professor of surgery, and Lester F. Williams Jr., M.D., the James Utley professor and chairman of the Division of Surgery.

COHEN DELIVERS FIRST MALAMUD
LECTURE; IS NAMED IOP FELLOW

"Schizophrenia in Identical Quadruplets: Interaction of Nature and Nurture" was the topic of the first Dr. William Malamud Memorial Lecture recently presented by Sanford I. Cohen, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Division of Psychiatry. Malamud was the first chairman of Psychiatry at BUSM and a former president of the American Psychiatric Association.

In his talk, Cohen noted Malamud's interest in schizophrenia research and his tenure as director of research for the National Association for Mental Health and the Scottish Rite research program in schizophrenia.

Cohen also recently was appointed a fellow of the International Organization of Psychophysiology. He was chosen for outstanding contributions to his field for more than 10 years.

BUSM UROLOGISTS
PUBLISH BOOK

"Male Sexual Dysfunction," edited by Robert J. Krane, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Urology; Mike B. Siroky, M.D., an associate professor of urology; and Irwin Goldstein, M.D., an assistant professor of urology, was published by Little, Brown and Company in October. The text discusses the mechanisms, diagnosis and treatment of impotence, with detailed information on vascular, neurogenic and hormonal impotence and disorders of ejaculation. Therapy selection and new concepts in male sexual dysfunction also are reviewed.

JEWISH MEDICAL SOCIETY
FORMED FOR BUSM STUDENTS

The recently founded Jewish medical student association, the Maimonides Medical Society, held its first organizational meeting Nov. 9. According to third-year student Leonard Wexler, the group's founder, the society was formed to provide an outlet for the variety of common religious and cultural interests of Jewish students.

The first event planned by the group is a brunch symposium co-sponsored by the Jewish Law Student Association, to be held at the Charles River Campus on Dec. 4. The symposium, "Death and Dying," will address a broad spectrum of Jewish views on the subject, with representatives from the legal, medical and religious professions as well as the euthanasia society and a family member of someone who has had a terminal illness. Attendance will be open to all.

TWO BUSM RECEPTIONS
HELD THIS MONTH

Two School of Medicine parents and alumni receptions were held this month. Ninety parents and alumni attended a Nov. 6 reception hosted by Parents Committee Chairpersons Paul and Jean Rothbaum. William McNary Jr., M.D., associate dean for student affairs, spoke on "Whatever Happened to the Bedside Manner?" and Dean Sandson gave an update on School of Medicine programs. The annual event was held at the Lake Success Golf Club in Great Neck, N.Y.

The Alumni Association also hosted a Nov. 8 breakfast at the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting. About 25 BUSM alumni from the Washington area and faculty and staff attending the conference were among those who gathered for the breakfast. Dean Sandson gave a brief update on the School.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT
COMPLETES CANCER FELLOWSHIP

Nancy Morgan, a first-year student at BUSM, recently completed work on a summer research fellowship from the American Cancer Society's Massachusetts Division. Morgan, a 1982 graduate of Wellesley College, studied the production of red blood cells influenced by a leukemia virus and their effect on the immune system. She worked under the direction of Carol Reinisch, Sc.D., at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. Reinisch is a member of the Cancer Society's Massachusetts Division Board of Directors.

The grant was funded through the Betty Lea Stone--American Cancer Society Research Fellowship Program. The Program was established in 1979 to attract young science students to careers in cancer research. It is offered to first-year medical students at the four Massachusetts medical schools.

DRUG EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT
MOVES TO BROOKLINE

The BUSM Drug Epidemiology Unit, which outgrew its old office in Cambridge, marked the opening of its new location on Beacon Street in Brookline, with an open house and reception Nov 4. The Unit now has 9,000 square feet of office space. The Unit's telephone number is 734-6006.

FACULTY TO BE FEATURED AT
UPCOMING CME COURSES

Several BUSM faculty members will take part in the Department of Continuing Medical Education's December course offerings. The Departments of Urology and Medical Oncology will present "Uro-Oncology Update 1983" Dec. 10 at the Marriott Hotel in Newton, Mass. The conference will deal with the diagnosis and treatment of common urological tumors seen in clinical practice. Robert J. Krane, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Urology, is course director and faculty members from both departments will speak.

"Family Therapy for the Mental Health Professional" will be held Dec. 27 to 30 at the Hyatt Orlando Hotel in Kissimmee, Fla. The series of seminars is sponsored by the Division of Psychiatry, the Department of Community and Social Psychiatry at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center and the Department of Social Services at UH. The series will cover state-of-the-art treatment in family therapy. Course directors are Melbahu Gibbs, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., chief psychiatric social worker in the Division of Psychiatry and assistant director of Social Services at UH; and William I. Malamud, M.D., a professor of

psychiatry and director of the SCFMHC Department of Social and Community Psychiatry.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Judith Marquis, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacology, recently presented two papers at the Second International Conference of ChE's held in Yugoslavia. The papers were entitled "Interactions of Neuroactive Drugs and Multivalent Cations with Purified Human Serum Cholinesterase," and "Interactions of Organophosphates with Extra-catalytic Sites on Bovine Brain Acetylcholinesterase....Barry Zuckerman, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, chaired a symposium at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics held on October 23 in San Francisco. The symposium, titled "At Risk Infants," dealt with several aspects of handicapped infant and child care. It was organized by Zuckerman in the wake of the "Baby Doe" controversy which concerns ethical decision making in the neonatal intensive care nursery....F. Marott Sinex, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, recently chaired a symposium on Alzheimer's Disease called "Resources: Where Do You Go and What Do You Do?" held at BUSM on October 19. He also was interviewed for an article on Alzheimer's Disease in the October issue of Your Life and Health. Sinex is president of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association of Massachusetts, a support group for patients, families and health professionals

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